



Informational Notes for First Responders and Officials

Bulletin #65 – January 11, 2005

SEMA's Homepage: sema.dps.mo.gov

Lt Colonel Ronald Reynolds (USA Ret) Named SEMA Director

On January 4, Governor-elect Matt Blunt announced Lt. Colonel (Ret.) Ronald Reynolds as his choice to lead the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). Reynolds (55) served in the United States Army from 1976-1998 where he worked as a traffic manager, senior operations director and operations officer. Reynolds was also a professor of military science at Lincoln University in Jefferson City. Reynolds will be starting at SEMA after the inauguration.

Katt Retires Effective Jan. 7

State Emergency Management Agency Deputy Director Beaufort "Buck" Katt of Columbia announced his retirement effective January 7, 2005. Katt served as deputy director for 11 years. He retired from the US Army after a distinguished 30-year career.

During his tenure, he managed recovery and mitigation efforts for the 1993-94 and numerous other floods, the 2002 ice storms and the May 2003 Statewide tornadoes. As deputy director, Katt focused his efforts on mitigation. Following the devastating 1993-94 floods, Katt orchestrated Missouri's Voluntary Buyout Program that used \$100 Million to help local communities move citizens out of and purchase 4200 residential properties in the floodplains. In 1995, he served as the state's first mitigation officer and oversaw the formation of the floodplain management program within SEMA. He formed a partnership with the Missouri Rural Electric Cooperatives and the National Weather Service to place more than 20 NOAA Weather Transmitters in rural Missouri for advanced severe weather warnings. Katt was instrumental in getting Missouri's State Hazard Mitigation Plan and Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan approved by FEMA. Missouri was the first state in the nation to have their Enhanced Mitigation Plan approved. Currently, Missouri leads the nation on the number of local hazard mitigation plans (103 counties plans covering 760 communities) approved by FEMA.

National Response Plan Completed

The National Response Plan (dated November 2004) was approved. Here is some additional information about the NRP. SEMA plans to send a CD of the entire NRP to each of the 28 Missouri Homeland Security Response Teams. You may view and download a PDF copy of the National Response Plan online at <http://www.dhs.gov/nationalresponseplan>

FEMA/EMI Unveils IS-800 National Response Plan

The new (long awaited) FEMA/EMI independent study course IS-800 National Response Plan is now available on the EMI website. <http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/crslist.asp>

This course along with the National Incident Management System course (IS-700) make a great combination designed to bring emergency management directors and responders up to speed with the current changes at the federal level. Neither course is very long and can be completed at the pace of the student. You are encouraged to take advantage of them. For more information contact: Jim Charrier, SEMA, State Training Officer, PH (573) 526-9120, FAX (573) 634-7966 or email: jcharrier@sema.state.mo.us

SEMA Newsletters Posted to Homepage

The SEMA Winter 2004 Newsletters (SEMA, Mitigation, MERC and MEPA) are posted to the SEMA homepage at: sema.dps.mo.gov. Some of the featured articles include Earthquake and Spring Awareness campaigns, the Communications and Spring conferences, Special Needs Task Force update and state and local level exercises.

Earthquake Awareness Campaign, Business Info Posted to Homepage

Information about the 2005 Earthquake Awareness Week (Jan 30- Feb 5, 2005) is posted to SEMA's homepage at: <http://sema.dps.mo.gov/EQ%20Awareness.htm>

The campaign features both General Information (Preparedness, bookmarks, Information on the New Madrid Fault, and DNR's Geologists in the Trenches) and Business Specific Information (emergency planning, non structural mitigation, office safety etc).

Draft Press Releases/Info on Elderly & Special Needs Posted to Homepage

Seven draft press releases/public service announcements focusing on elderly and special needs populations have been posted to the SEMA homepage. The information focuses on evacuation tips and information for special needs populations (mobility, hearing, visual impaired, elderly citizens and children). The information can be downloaded and worked into local public awareness campaigns or used during a disaster response. The link is: sema.dps.mo.gov/empuin.htm then just scroll down to the Elderly and Special Needs headline for the draft press releases.

ODP Announces Firefighter Grants (Rounds 27, 28, 29)

The Office of Domestic Preparedness announced 10 Missouri Fire Departments received FY'04 Firefighter assistance grants.

Departments receiving grants for Firefighting Vehicles are: Big Springs FPD \$90,000; Brookfield RFA \$175,500; Ethel VFD \$52,200; Jamesport RFD \$26,820; Lakeview Heights FPD (Lincoln) \$45,000; Qulin FPD \$92,770; and West Alton FPD \$156,420.

Departments receiving grants for Operations and Firefighter Safety are: Afton FPD \$91,352; Macon FD \$55,530; and Northeast R-4 RFA (Cairo) \$80,073.

Citizens Can Volunteer for New Program - Fire Corps

A new volunteer program has been launched to encourage citizens to support their local fire departments in non-emergency roles. The program, Fire Corps, is a spin-off to the Citizens Corps program. The new program involves citizens in public education, training and volunteer efforts focused on fire prevention and safety. Fire Corps is a partnership between Citizens Corps, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Volunteer Assn of Fire Chiefs' Volunteer Combination Officer Section and International Assn of Fire Fighters.

The programs' ultimate goal is to support and supplemental resource-constrained fire departments at all levels, volunteer, combination and career. The idea is to use civilian advocates for non-operational activities. Some volunteers will serve as community liaisons by conducting education and outreach programs, while others will perform administrative duties at fire stations. This will allow firefighters to focus on handling emergencies.

For more information, visit www.firecorps.org.

Resolve to be Ready in 2005!

Nearly half of all American adults make one or more New Year's resolutions every year, including quitting smoking, losing weight or committing to an exercise program. This year resolve to create a family emergency plan for your family. A family plan teaches members how to respond to a disaster and how to communicate with one another. Log-on to www.Ready.gov. Look for the 'Resolve to be Ready' icon. You can download a free family emergency plan template to help you get started.